



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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JOHN R. NEWHART, SHERIFF
JAMES J. O'SULLIVAN, UNDERSHERIFF
JAMES H. SHIPLEY, CHIEF DEPUTY

April 11, 2012

To the Citizens of Chesapeake:

After more than half a century of public service, I intend to retire effective September 30, 2012 as the Sheriff of Chesapeake.

Over the past year, I have noticed an increase in common health issues associated with age. My goal has always been to travel when I retire and I have decided to do this while my health allows it.

When I was elected Sheriff in 1969, I had no idea my journey would last so long or be as fulfilling as it has been. My motto has always been "if you can't help someone, what good are you?" This one phrase has caused me to reach far beyond my duties as a law enforcement official and lobby every area of Federal, State, and local government to help the citizens I serve.

If I had to place one area of emphasis to my accomplishments it would undoubtedly be my work with the senior citizens of our community. I saw very early in my career that there was a strong need for services to our seniors, and many of them were falling through the cracks because there were no programs to help them. I have always thought that these citizens have paid their dues and deserve better, so I created several programs to assist them when they were in need or victims of crime.

It is also very important to me to sincerely thank the many employees of the Sheriff's Office, past and present, for their loyal service to me and the citizens of Chesapeake. These are the people that make this office work from day to day. During my tenure as Sheriff, I had the privilege of having five great people serve as my Undersheriff; these men were the catalyst that made this office operate, and I would be remiss if I didn't thank Noah Byrum, Claude Stafford, David Newby, Joel Kirshon, and my current Undersheriff Jim O'Sullivan.

Upon my retirement, Jim O'Sullivan will assume the duties of Sheriff as defined in the Code of Virginia. If there is one thing that gives me solace as I leave Office later this year, it is that I will be turning my life's work over to a man whom I respect and is the most capable person to carry this office into the future. I wish Jim all the best in the future; I feel the citizens of Chesapeake will be fortunate to have him leading their Sheriff's Office.

Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of Chesapeake for allowing me to serve as your Sheriff. I will always cherish the many relationships that have been forged and the good we have done in the community, together.

Sincerely,

**John R. Newhart
Sheriff**